

**UNAPPROVED**  
**COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF**  
**September 24, 2007**

**TIME**           The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT**     Chair Lord-Hausman, Vice-Chair Moore and Commissioners Berger, Fort, Kirola, Longley-Cook, Hakanson, Robinson and Kreitz.

**ABSENT**       None

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 27, 2007, meeting were approved with the following correction: New Business, Item #1, Brown Act Training, 3rd bullet- change 'In order to participate, people must receive adequate' to 'In order to participate, people must receive adequate notice'.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

A local citizen sent a letter to the Commission in appreciation for the temporary disabled parking spaces provided at the Thursday afternoon farmer's market. They requested that temporary disabled parking spaces be provided at other events, as well. Commissioners requested that the October agenda include discussion and action on the provision of temporary disabled parking spaces at all community events.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Paratransit Program:**

Transportation Coordinator Barry Bergman provided an overview of the City's expanded paratransit program, a taxi service that supplements East Bay Paratransit's ADA-mandated service. Brochures were distributed to the Commissioners. Additional brochures were requested for distribution by the Commission at upcoming events and facilities. Since all trips are provided by taxi, trips may be scheduled the same day as they will be taken.

Commissioners stated that East Bay Paratransit, not to be confused with the City's program, needs to improve their dispatching as on numerous occasions a trip to Oakland from Alameda involves first picking up passengers in Hayward. Barry informed the Commission that, depending upon the type of vehicle dispatched and the passengers' disabilities, or non-disability, up to four persons can share a ride to the same destination as one fare if they start from the same pick-up location. For additional information contact Barry Bergman at 510-749-5916 or the City's website at [alamedaparatransit.com](http://alamedaparatransit.com). Informational brochures about the program can be obtained from Mastick Senior Center, 510-747-7506.

**2. AC Transit Access Issues:**

AC Transit Board member Elsa Ortiz informed the Commission on its services for the disabled community. The AC Transit Board meets the second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. In

addition to the board there are four committees, one of which is an accessory advisory committee. Ms. Ortiz also meets quarterly with Alameda City Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Matarrese.

AC Transit participates in the County paratransit program. Reduced fares are provided for seniors, persons with disabilities and Medicare cardholders. Free flashcard kits are available alerting the driver prior to boarding as follow: a 'lift' card if a lift is needed, a 'kneeler' card to reduce step height or a 'wait' card if additional time is required to be seated. Bus identification kits in Braille or large print identify the bus line to be taken to the driver are available for persons who have difficulty communicating.

Ms. Ortiz informed the Commission that the new buses being constructed will be more accessible for the disabled community. The Commissioners voiced their concerns particularly; a) insufficient isle widths for persons with walkers; b) insufficient air circulation; c) newsstand racks and recycling bins blocking access; d) reserved senior seats at floor level (not one step up); and, e) designated senior seats also for use by pregnant women.

The Commission and Ms. Ortiz shared information on other AC Transit services and recommendations for future site improvements. Translink, a real-time computerized schedule, between AC Transit and Bart, is currently not available in Alameda. The Commission informed Ms. Ortiz that bus platforms (e.g. Webster Street) should be wider where steps are located directly across from the platform as a wheelchair or walker user could accidentally go off the edge. Any concerns should be directed to Ms. Mallory Nestor-Brush, AC Transit Accessible Service Manager, at AC Transit's hotline number (510) 891-7213 after 9am.

**3. October Commission Meeting:**

The Commission moved to change October's meeting from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Disability Awareness Month (Vice Chair Moore):**

Vice-Chair Jody Moore updated the Commission on her coordination with the Recreation and Parks Department for a tree and plaque dedication ceremony October 6, 2007, at Lincoln Park to commemorate October as Disability Awareness Month. Chair Audrey Lord-Hausman urged Commissioners to attend the October 2, 2007, City Council meeting to receive the October Disability Awareness Month Proclamation.

**2. Commission on Disability Internet Link (Chair Lord-Hausman/Secretary Akil):**

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the web designers are still working on the site and will get back to her.

**3. Commissioner Duties (Chair Lord-Hausman):**

Chair Lord-Hausman encouraged the members to be attentive to the meeting agendas of other Boards and Commissions that may be of interest to the Commission.

**4. Alameda Hospital Health Fair:**

The Alameda Hospital Health Fair will be held on October 20, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. The Commission will have a table at the event.

**STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Transportation Coordinator Barry Bergman and the secretary updated the Commission on the recently installed audible/countdown traffic signals. Of the twenty-three intersection locations where signals have been modified to include audible and pedestrian time countdowns, six locations have had the audible portion deactivated due to adjacent neighborhood noise concerns. City staff is investigating the installation of push button activators at these locations to reduce the frequency of operation. Staff requested that the Commission agendaize a future meeting for discussion on additional audible/countdown locations and priority.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Chair Lord-Hausman informed the Commission that: a) Mastick Senior Center will be having a carfit training presentation by the American Society on Aging on October 24, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and, b) a planning staff person has been contacted to make a presentation at the November Commission meeting on the Alameda Landing development.
2. The bus stop at Eighth Street and Central Avenue adjacent to Washington Park is not accessible. The Secretary will forward the Commissions concern. Commissioner Fort would like to know what bus line(s) stops at that location.
3. The Alameda Special Olympics will have a fundraiser in October.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 15, 2007, 6:30 p.m. in Room 360 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Sommerauer,  
Interim Commission Secretary